



LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan) A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Folsom School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): June 16, 2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): N/A

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

School staff, students, and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health, the individual is under two years of age, or other exceptions outlined by the NJDOE.

According to the CDC, the most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Gaiters with one layer of fabric, masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are not recommended. Folsom will provide students with a properly fitting mask if needed.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Physical distancing will be encouraged to the maximum extent possible.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day, especially before and after lunch periods. Students and staff will be reminded to cover their mouths with a tissue or use their elbows when coughing or sneezing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

The district has a Victory Electrostatic Backpack Sprayer and several Victory handheld electrostatic sprayers to use throughout the building. A robust cleaning / disinfecting schedule will continue to be followed. Wall mounted sanitizer dispensers are located in every classroom and throughout the school and additional hand pumps are available in every classroom.

Vollara Air & Surface Pro+ Air purifiers are installed in every classroom and restroom throughout the building. An Odorox Slimline Hydroxyl Generator is located in the nurse's office. Two Odorox Boss XL3 Hydroxyl Generators and two HEPA 500 air scrubbers are located in the hallways. Two Air Scrubber 2000 K4 HEPA negative air machines are in the gymnasium and cafeteria. Circulating tower fans are also available for every classroom. The additional ARP grant funds will be used to upgrade HVAC units throughout the building.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The school nurse will handle contract tracing, isolation, and quarantine requirements, in adherence of the recommendations of the NJ Department of Health.

Staff and students will be isolated from others in the nurse's office. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Parents will be asked to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire using the Realtime Parent Portal to confirm students are free of COVID-19. This feature will allow parents, students, and staff to track district selected COVID-19 related questions through the Parent Portal, Student Portal, or within Realtime (for staff). Reports will be available to discover students or staff that entered a specific answer or those that did not complete the screening questions for a selected day.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Vaccination clinics were held in the Spring for all staff interested in being vaccinated. The school continues to maintain a relationship with a local pharmacy to coordinate anyone that chooses to be vaccinated.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

Children with disabilities in need of a mask break have the ability for frequent mask breaks outside the classroom and/or in the nurse's office. In addition, we have utilized the Child Study Team and the school counselor for supports and services of children with disabilities in regards to the health and safety policies.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

Folsom School District is prioritizing students' and staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs through the partnership with AtlantiCare Behavioral Health in the newly created position of a school wellness counselor. The counselor will serve the community in a number of areas ranging from employee wellness initiatives, leading school wellness committees, providing ongoing parental education and engagement, and providing referrals for students and families for appropriate mental health services.

In addition to the counselor, Folsom will continue with a 4-week summer learning program to address students' academic and SEL needs. Lastly, the district will offer academic support programming after-school for students to bridge the gap in learning.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

Folsom School District shared the plan at the June 22nd monthly board of education meeting followed by public comment. Public comments were taken into consideration in the development of the plan.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

The Folsom School District plan was written in a clear and concise manner that is understandable by parents. The district will translate the plan to any parent who requests assistance.